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## Lethbridge Experimental Station

### WEEKLY LETTER 2,4-D SPRAY MACHINES

If it is planned to purchase a 2,4-D spray machine this season there are a few things that should be considered before buying.

From experiences of the past two seasons, the low volume-low pressure type of sprayer, which applies the 2,4-D solution at a rate of 4 to 5 gallons per acre, has proven to be very successful. The use of this small quantity of water greatly reduces the cost and inconvenience of weed spraying, and also will help to increase the acreage that can be covered with a day's work.

If a machine is to be purchased for weed spraying only, then the machine possessing the greatest number of desirable features at the lowest cost should be purchased. However, if the machine is intended for such other jobs as spraying cattle for warble fly control, potato spraying, and root cellar spraying, a more expensive machine with an adjustable pressure range from 30 to 150 pounds is likely to be the best investment.

Some of the things to be checked when purchasing a sprayer are listed below:

1. Nozzles—The nozzles should be such as to apply the 2,4-D spray solution, as a flat fan spray, uniformly throughout the length of the boom. The nozzle orifice should be within a size range to allow for a rate of application between 3 and 5 gallons per acre at pressures obtained from the pump, and at speeds obtained with the individual tractor.

2. Boom—The desirable length of boom will vary with the type of land on which the machine is to be used—short booms for rough or hilly land, and longer booms from 30 to 40 feet for level land. The boom should be rust proof, and have sufficient support to prevent "whipping". Further, the boom should be adjustable for height.

3. Pressure gauge—To insure that operating pressures remain constant a pressure gauge should be on the machine and mounted where it will be visible to the operator.

4. Pressure regulator—A regulator should be provided so that any pressure adjustment can be made easily.

5. Pump—An anti-corrosive pump will help insure good operation and uniform rate of application. Pumps with rubber vanes or other rubber parts are unsuitable for use with the ester type of 2,4-D. The ester is likely to affect the rubber, thereby upsetting the calibration of the sprayer.

6. Tank—The tank should be easily filled and drained, and should be covered to keep out dust and dirt. It is best made of some material which is rust-proof. If no tank is provided with the machine, any container of reasonable capacity, possessing the above mentioned features, will be satisfactory.

7. Filters—A good filtering system is essential. Some means must be available or provided for filtering solution into the tank. Filters should be provided between tank and pump and at the nozzles. A combination of rust-proof equipment, and adequate filtering system, and care in operation will help to assure an even distribution of the 2,4-D solution with a minimum of waste delay and inconvenience.

8. Construction—The whole sprayer should be simply and well constructed of high quality material. Repair parts should be readily available.

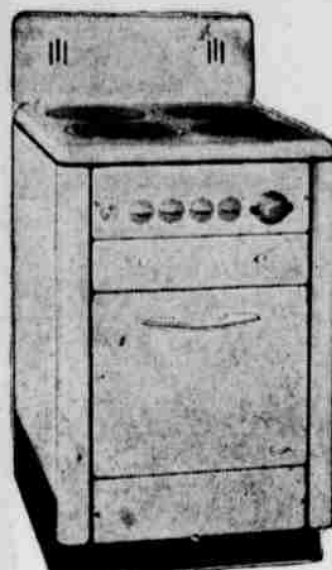
9. Calibration—A chart should be supplied with the sprayer to give information regarding the rates of spray distribution at various pressures and speeds. If no such chart is available, the individual purchasing the machine must spend time calibrating the sprayer so that the 2,4-D can be applied at the recommended dosages.

10. Marker—Some types of marker is desirable, but at this time we know of no machine which has a fool proof marker.

Don't forget the Benefit Supper being held April 14th in the Opera House. Tickets are on sale now at .75¢ per plate. Help put the new organ in the Stake House.



Radio actor-writer, Bernard Braden, author of the series, "These English" now being broadcast over the CBC Trans-Canada network on Fridays at 8:30 p.m. MST. Purpose of the program is to present a picture of post-war Britain. Mr. Braden collected the material for his series last summer during a trip to Britain.



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